

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A multifunction apparatus, which is so adapted that
any device of a plurality of types can be selectively
5 attached thereto, for executing control that differs
depending upon the type of device attached, the
apparatus comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting a timing
signal, which is for acquiring identifying information
10 stored in an attached device, to the attached device;

receiving means for receiving the identifying
information that has been sent from the attached device
in accordance with the timing signal;

determination means for determining, with regard to
15 a device of a specific type, whether specific data
contained in the identifying information is indicative
of a predetermined value; and

control means for exercising control upon
construing that the attached device is of the specific
20 type in a case where the determination means has
determined that the specific data is indicative of the
predetermined value.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said
25 control means includes means for giving notification of
the fact the attached device has not been electrically

connected correctly if said determination means has determined that the specific data is not indicative of the predetermined value.

- 5 3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the identifying information is digital information comprising a plurality of bits and is transmitted serially from the attached device, said specific data comprising two or more bits transmitted in succession.
- 10 4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the predetermined value is such that the values of the bits thereof differ alternately.
- 15 5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein devices include a device having an information input function and a device having an information output function.
- 20 6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein devices include a scanner unit for reading a document image and a printhead cartridge for outputting an image to a printing medium.
- 25 7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the printhead cartridge includes an ink-jet printhead for printing by discharging ink, and an ink tank containing

ink supplied to said printhead.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said
printhead discharges ink by utilizing thermal energy and
5 has a thermal energy converter for generating thermal
energy applied to the ink.

9. A method of identifying a device that has been
attached to a multifunction apparatus, which is so
10 adapted that any device of a plurality of types can be
selectively attached thereto, for executing control that
differs depending upon the type of device attached, the
method comprising:

a transmitting step of transmitting a timing
15 signal, which is for acquiring identifying information
stored in an attached device, to the attached device;

a receiving step of receiving the identifying
information that has been sent from the attached device
in accordance with the timing signal;

20 a determination step of determining, with regard to
a device of a specific type, whether specific data
contained in the identifying information is indicative
of a predetermined value; and

a control step of exercising control upon
25 construing that the attached device is of the specific
type in a case where said determination step has

determined that the specific data is indicative of the predetermined value.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein said
5 control step further includes a step of giving
notification of the fact the attached device has not
been electrically connected correctly if said
determination step has determined that the specific data
is not indicative of the predetermined value.

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11. The method according to claim 9, wherein the
identifying information is digital information
comprising a plurality of bits and is transmitted
serially from the attached device, said specific data
15 comprising two or more bits transmitted in succession.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the
predetermined value is such that the values of the bits
thereof differ alternately.

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13. The method according to claim 9, wherein devices
include a device having an information input function
and a device having an information output function.

25 14. The method according to claim 9, wherein devices
include a scanner unit for reading a document image and

a printhead cartridge for outputting an image to a printing medium.

15. A computer program product executed by a
5 multifunction apparatus, which is so adapted that any device of a plurality of types can be selectively attached thereto, for executing control that differs depending upon the type of device attached, said computer program product having program code
10 corresponding to the following steps:

a transmitting step of transmitting a timing signal, which is for acquiring identifying information stored in an attached device, to the attached device;

a receiving step of receiving the identifying
15 information that has been sent from the attached device in accordance with the timing signal;

a determination step of determining, with regard to a device of a specific type, whether specific data contained in the identifying information is indicative
20 of a predetermined value; and

a control step of exercising control upon construing that the attached device is of the specific type in a case where said determination step has determined that the specific data is indicative of the
25 predetermined value.

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16. A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program executed by a multifunction apparatus, which is so adapted that any device of a plurality of types can be selectively attached thereto, for executing control that differs depending upon the type of device attached, said computer program comprising program code corresponding to the following steps:

a transmitting step of transmitting a timing signal, which is for acquiring identifying information stored in an attached device, to the attached device;

a receiving step of receiving the identifying information that has been sent from the attached device in accordance with the timing signal;

a determination step of determining, with regard to a device of a specific type, whether specific data contained in the identifying information is indicative of a predetermined value; and

a control step of exercising control upon construing that the attached device is of the specific type in a case where said determination step has determined that the specific data is indicative of the predetermined value.